

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS - FRED BROWN

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS: US-UK RHODESIA TALKS

NO. 6

1. HERewith FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BY R.W. APPLE APPEARING
NEW YORK TIMES MAY 7 ENTITLED "U.S. AND BRITAIN AGREE ON
RHODESIA TACTICS; VANCE AND OWEN DECIDE TO AVOID A FULL-
SCALE CONFERENCE AND WILL RELY ON SMALLER MEETINGS."

2. BEGIN TEXT:

- LONDON, MAY 6--SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND
DR. DAVID OWEN, THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, REACHED
"FULL AGREEMENT" TODAY ON REVISED TACTICS THAT THEY HOPE
WILL LEAD TO A BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA
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BEFORE THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

- AT A TWO-HOUR MEETING IN DR. OWEN'S WHITEHALL OFFICE
THIS MORNING, THE TWO DECIDED TO AVOID FOR THE MOMENT A
FULL-SCALE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SUCH AS THE ONE IN
GENEVA LAST YEAR THAT ENDED IN FAILURE. INSTEAD, THEY WILL
RELY ON A SERIES OF LOWER-LEVEL MEETINGS IN VARIOUS AFRICAN

CITIES TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS WELL IN ADVANCE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

ALTHOUGH BRITISH AND AMERICAN SPOKESMAN WHO ANNOUNCED THE AGREEMENT GAVE NO PARTICULARS OF THE PLAN, INFORMED SOURCES ON BOTH SIDES REPORTED THAT MR. VANCE AND DR. OWEN CONSIDERED IT CRUCIAL TO KEEP THINGS FLEXIBLE, AVOID CONFRONTATIONS AND OPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BEHIND THE SCENES.

- TELEGRAMS WERE DISPATCHED TONIGHT TO THE KEY POWER GROUPS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA -- PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH OF RHODESIA, PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SO-CALLED FRONT-LINE BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS AND BLACK RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS -- INFORMING THEM OF THE AGREED TACTICS.

- ONE OF THE MORE MILITANT RHODESIANS, JOSHUA NKOMO OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MET SEPARATELY WITH DR. OWEN AND MR. VANCE AND SAID LATER THAT THE EVENTUAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE SPONSORED BY BRITAIN ALONE, RATHER THAN CO-SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES AS PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED.

- MR. NKOMO, WHO HAS EXPRESSED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RHODESIAN INITIATIVE STARTED BY DR. OWEN LAST MONTH, SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE WANTED NO "OUTSIDERS" INVOLVED AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE UNITED STATES AN OUTSIDER. BRITAIN, STILL THE LEGAL RULER OF RHODESIA DESPITE MR. SMITH'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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12 YEARS AGO, OCCUPIES A DIFFERENT ROLE, MR. NKOMO SAID.

- AMERICAN AND BRITISH OFFICIALS ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS TO WHO WOULD SPONSOR THE CONFERENCE. MR. NKOMO, THEY SAID, HAD PRESSED FOR A COMMITMENT THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE THE SOLE SPONSOR, HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE QUESTION WOULD BE SETTLED LATER AND HAD NONETHELESS GIVEN THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD GAINED THE COMMITMENT THAT HE HAD SOUGHT.

- "HE IS AN ARTFUL SPEAKER," ONE OF THE OFFICIALS SAID. "I AGREE THAT AMERICAN CO-SPONSORSHIP IS LESS LIKELY THAN IT WAS BEFORE. IT MAY WELL BE THAT WE'LL GET THE AGREEMENT IN THE EARLY CONSTITUTIONS AND THE SPONSORSHIP QUESTION WILL NEVER COME UP. BUT HE GOT NO COMMITMENT IN TODAY'S MEETINGS."

- ACCORDING TO FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES, JOHN GRAHAM,

A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY WHO SPECIALIZES IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WILL SET UP A BRITISH "BASE CAMP" SOMEWHERE IN BLACK AFRICA--EITHER DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, OR LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD --WITHIN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE AND OTHER EXPERTS WILL THEN HOLD A SERIES OF CONFERENCES WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES, SEARCHING FOR A FORMULA THAT ALL WILL ACCEPT.

- THE AMERICANS WILL ALSO PLAY A PART, BUT A SLIGHTLY LESS IMPORTANT ONE. A UNITED STATES OFFICIAL WILL OPERATE FROM A SPECIAL OFFICE WITHIN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE CITY THAT IS FINALLY CHOSEN. THE OFFICIAL WILL BE CHOSEN FOLLOWING A SHAKE-UP IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WHICH IS DUE NEXT WEEK.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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